

SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Information Bulletin #985



CONFIDENCE TESTING REPAIRS

It appears at this time that repairs are required for one or more of your fire protection systems.

Code Requirements

The Seattle Fire Code requires that fire protection systems (such as fire alarms, automatic sprinkler systems and standpipes) be tested at regular intervals. This confidence testing of fire protection systems is separate from the regular building inspections conducted by the Fire Department.

Confidence testing helps ensure that systems function as designed. Testing will reveal defects in the system that require correction. The Seattle Fire Code, Section 1001.5.1, states that all fire protection systems be maintained in a working condition at all times and be replaced or repaired when defective.

Additionally, maintenance and periodic testing are the owner's responsibility, or the responsibility of another person designated in a lease of the premises. Any defects noted in the inspector's report must be corrected at that time. Failure to make required repairs to fire protection systems is a criminal violation of the Seattle Fire Code.

Selecting a Contractor

The Seattle Fire Department recommends taking basic consumer precautions in hiring a contractor for system testing and repairs. The Better Business Bureau can be contacted regarding the company with which you choose to work. You may want to request references, or get multiple bids for the required work.

The Seattle Fire Department cannot make a specific recommendation about the use of a testing company, but we can inform you as to which companies have individuals who are certified to work on fire protection systems within the City of Seattle.

The system owner or lease-designated person is ultimately responsible for ensuring that required testing is done by a certified technician and that the test report is provided in a timely manner to the Fire Department.

If the corrections specified by your tester on the inspection report have not been corrected within 30 days, the testing company is required to forward the test report to the Seattle Fire Marshal's Office for resolution.

If there are questions regarding the corrections or repairs you have been required to make, you may call the Seattle Fire Department's Confidence Testing Unit at 386-1351. We would appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.